

The National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Valerie Frances, Executive Director  
NOSB, USDA-AMS-TM-NOP  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Room 4008-South Bldg., Ag Stop 0268  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0200

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Dear Ms. Frances,

Ocean Nutrition Canada Limited (ONC) would like to take this opportunity to thank the NOSB for hearing our comments at the recent public meeting. We appreciated the Board's participation in the diverse discussions concerning the recommendations relative to agricultural and non-agricultural substances. As a manufacturer of Omega-3 fish oil products, ONC was hopeful that the meeting would result in the acceptance of a more robust system for making agricultural/non-agricultural designations. However, the complexity of the topic was very apparent at the meeting and it is understandable that further consideration is required.

As follow-up to the comments made at the NOSB public meeting, ONC would like to reiterate that a detailed decision tree rooted in the definitions of agricultural and non-agricultural substances would be very valuable to the industry. In response to the comment that the current definition of livestock excludes aquatic animals, we would like to emphasize that the current definition of "agricultural product" is not exclusive to livestock. Revising the current agricultural and non-agricultural definitions may result in revision of the livestock definition as well; however, until that time, the current definition of an agricultural product includes, but is not limited to livestock. As such, Omega-3 fish oil and fish gelatin are not excluded from the agricultural designation because of the current livestock definition.

During the Board's continued evaluation of petitions for the addition of substances to section 205.606 of the National List, we ask that you recognize Omega-3 fish oil and fish gelatin as agricultural. The recommendations made at the NOSB relative to the agricultural and non-agricultural substances for National List Consideration acknowledged the need for more robust definitions. The proposed decision tree is a positive approach that we hope to see accepted at the next meeting. In the development of improved agricultural and non-agricultural product definitions, we ask that you allow the inclusion of aquatic animals, and specifically fish products.

Thank you again for the time and effort put in by the NOP and the NOSB in response to the need for agricultural substances to be included on the National List. ONC is very appreciative of your dedication to this issue and your consideration of our comments, both in writing and in person at the NOSB meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can provide any additional information that would be of assistance throughout this process.

Sincerely,



Julianne Mayo  
Regulatory Affairs Associate